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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,269	03/01/2002	Raymond L. Goodson	Suzee	4055

7980 01/23/2004

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EXAMINER

COLE, ELIZABETH M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/086,269

Applicant(s)

GOODSON, RAYMOND L

Examiner

Elizabeth M Cole

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any entered patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1445) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II in Paper No. *** is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search of the two groups would overlap and that therefore it would not be burdensome to examine both groups. This is not found persuasive because the issues and search would be divergent and therefore it would be burdensome to examine both groups.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 25, 27, 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 25, there is no antecedent basis for "the polyolefin fabric". In claim 27, there is not antecedent basis for "said second surface". In claims 28-30 there is no antecedent basis for "step d".

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,656,080. Takahashi et al discloses method of making a thermoplastic laminated material comprising the steps of providing a thermoplastic first layer comprising a polyester layer, providing a second layer which may comprise a polyolefin fabric, applying a polyurethane bonding agent to one of the two layers and bonding the two layers together through the bonding agent through the application of

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heat and pressure. See col. 2, lines 34-43; col. 3, lines 50-64; col. 4, lines 8-26; col. 4, lines 46-54. The heat pressing is done at temperatures and pressures which overlap the claimed range.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,656,080 in view of Hirasaka et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,10,678. Takahashi et al discloses a method of making a laminated material as set forth above. Takahashi differs from the claimed invention because Takahashi does not disclose cold pressing the laminate after hot pressing. Hirasaka teaches that laminated sheets comprising polymeric sheets and fibrous reinforcements may be cold pressed after hot pressing in order to enhance the uniformity and smoothness of the material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed cold pressing after hot pressing, motivated by the expectation that this would further enhance the strength and uniformity of the laminate.

7. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al, U.S. Patent NO. 4,656,080 in view of Spengler, U.S. Patent No. 4,634,483. Takahashi discloses a method of making a laminated fabric as set forth

above. Takahashi differs from the claimed invention because Takahashi does not disclose employing a retaining means such as a tenter to hold the fabric during the lamination process. Spengler teaches that an apparatus such as a tenter may be employed to hold materials such as pliable fabrics which are to be laminated in order to prevent the fabrics from creasing during lamination. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed a means to retain the fabric such as that taught by Spengler during the process disclosed by Takahashi. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the retaining means in order to prevent creases forming in the fabric during the laminating process.

8. Claims 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al in view of Spengler as set forth above, and further in view of Eckart et al, U.S. Patent No, 5,958,539. Neither Takahashi nor Spengler teach employing the claimed paper layers and metal layers. Eckart teaches that the conventional laminating processes employ metal layers, paper release layers and press pads in order to laminate thermoplastic layers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed a conventional laminating apparatus such as that disclosed in Eckart to laminate the layers of Takahashi, motivated by the teaching of Eckart that this arrangement results in a strongly bonded material. With regard to the corona discharge treatment, corona discharge treatments are conventionally performed to enhance adhesive bonding between layers.

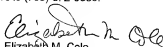
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth M. Cole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1475. The examiner may be reached between 6:30 AM and 6:00 PM Monday through Wednesday, and 6:30 AM and 2 PM on Thursday.

Mr. Terrel Morris, the examiner's supervisor, may be reached at (571) 272-1478.

Inquiries of a general nature may be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0994.

The fax number for all official faxes is (703) 872-9306.


Elizabeth M. Cole
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1771

e.m.c